

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently amended) An absorbent article containing an active chemical comprising: an absorbent web containing fibers, said absorbent web having at least two outer surfaces; and an indicator system applied to said web, said indicator system comprising at least one dye component imparting a color to said at least one surface, said at least one dye component being capable of dissolving into a liquid when contacted therewith, said at least one dye component dissolving at a faster rate than said active chemical when contacted with said liquid such that said color of said at least one surface becomes altered before said active chemical is completely exhausted during the use of said article; and a cross-linked water-swellable polymer mixture applied to said web, wherein said cross-linked water-swellable polymer is cross-linked to a degree that controls the rate that said at least one dye component dissolves into said liquid when contacted therewith.

26. (Original) An article as defined in claim 25, wherein said web has at least two outer surfaces, said indicator system being applied to at least one of said two surfaces.

27. (Original) An article as defined in claim 26, wherein said indicator system covers less than about 60% of said at least one surface of said web such that said web is capable of maintaining absorbent properties.

28. (Original) An article as defined in claim 25, wherein said indicator system comprises a non-reactive dye.

29. (Original) An article as defined in claim 25, wherein said indicator system comprises a reactive dye.

30. (Original) An article as defined in claim 25, wherein said polymer mixture comprises a polymer capable of swelling in water.

31. (Original) An article as defined in claim 25, wherein said polymer mixture comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of a cross-linking agent, a catalyst, a thickener, a plasticizer, a defoamer, composite particles, a viscosity modifier, a stabilizer, a surfactant, and combinations thereof.

32. (Original) An article as defined in claim 25, wherein said active chemical comprises an anti-microbial agent.

33. (Original) An article as defined in claim 32, wherein said anti-microbial agent comprises a stationary additive.

34. (Original) An article as defined in claim 32, wherein said anti-microbial agent comprises a surface migration additive.

35. (Canceled)